Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph which begins with line 10 of page 2 and ends with line 2 of page 3 with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. 2 is a plan view (top view) schematically showing structures of the light receiving element array 18 and the signal processing circuit 20, and Fig. 3 schematically shows a structure of the signal processing circuit 20 for generating a position detection signal based on a detection signal from the light receiving element array 18 of Fig. 2. In the example shown in Fig. 2, the light receiving element array 18 comprises light receiving elements (photo diodes, for example) 26a, 26b, which belong to a plurality of groups (though only two groups are shown in Fig. 2), and these light receiving elements (namely, light receiving elements 26a of the first group and light receiving elements 26b of the second group) are alternately arranged in a line along the moving direction of the scaler 16. As shown in Fig. 3, signals output from the light receiving elements 26a and 26b of the first and second groups are then amplified by amplifiers 28a and 28b, respectively, and outputs from the amplifiers ~~20a~~ 28a and 28b are compared in a comparator 30. The signal generating circuit 20 then generates a position detection signal based on the comparison result output by the comparator 30.